



Westminster Police Department **PRESS RELEASE**



June 3, 2005

For Public Release

Double Murder—Additional Information

Crime Discovered: April 22nd, 2005 @ 2218 hours
Location: 9500 Block of Bird, Westminster, CA
Suspect Vehicle: Dark gray or blue newer model Toyota
Weapon: Unknown determined stabbing weapon
Victim(s): Anita VO, 23 yrs old, suffered multiple stab wounds (deceased)
Ha Jade SMITH, 52 yrs old, suffered multiple stab wounds (deceased)

Summary:

The two victims, who were mother and daughter, were found dead at their residence from multiple stab wounds, and that both victims' heads and hands had been covered with white paint. Police made the discovery after being notified by a family friend that he had not been able to make contact with the pair.

Detectives learned a male and a female Asian were seen at the scene of the crime around the time of the homicide. During the investigation, detectives, working with US Marshals, discovered that five subjects would be flying into John Wayne Airport on May 28th, and two of the passengers would be flying under the names of the murder victims. Surveillance was conducted on the group as they departed an airport in North Carolina and flew to Orange County.

Two days of surveillance was done on the group after they arrived in Orange County and enough evidence was obtained to make arrests for identity theft and burglary. The group consisted of an adult female, Tanya Jaime Nelson (41 years old; Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina), flying as Ha Jade Smith, and her four children. One of her children was flying as Anita Vo.

On May 30th, Tanya Nelson was booked on the burglary and identity theft charges. The adult child was released, and the minor children were housed at Orangewood Children's home. After completing interviews of the group, investigators flew to North Carolina to continue the investigation.

While in North Carolina, information was obtained that led to a male Asian, Phillipe Zamora (50 years old; Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina), who may have been involved with the crime. Zamora was interviewed by our detectives, and ultimately taken into custody for the murders of Ha Jade Smith and Anita Vo. Zamora is currently being held in the Halifax County Jail—extradition proceedings are underway.

Tanya Nelson will have her complaint amended charging her with the murders of Ha Smith and Anita Vo.